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Children and Fire

Government
Publications

Most growing girls and boys soon learn to be proud of Ontario's great outdoors; its wildlife, forests, lakes and rivers.

That's why it's surprising - and disappointing - to know that young people are responsible for about 160 forest fires every year.

Most of the forest fires they set happen through carelessness or ignorance. In this, parents must share the blame.

Parents are responsible for teaching their children the rules for safe fire use in the forest. Likewise, children have an obligation to teach their parents if their parents don't know the rules.

Every person who enters a wooded area should know just how far a little carelessness with fire in the forest can go.

Here's an example. An unextinguished campfire near Garden Lake, Ontario, fanned by a gale wind, burned 70 miles in 36 hours in a strip from 2 to 4 miles wide.

Most forest fires aren't so spectacular. But they all add up. Every year, they take a combined toll of millions of dollars on our timber resources and recreation areas. And, long range, the toll they can take on our environment includes flooding, soil erosion, stream siltation and lake and stream pollution.

So, remember, a wooded area is no place to fool around with cigarettes, matches or fireworks, or for carelessness with campfires. Don't you cause a forest fire. Follow the rules for fire safety in the forest.

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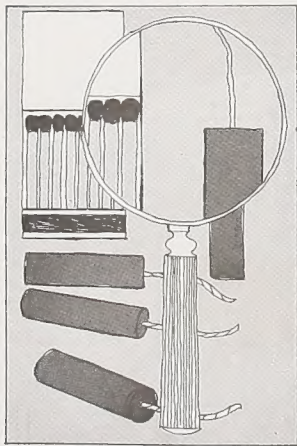
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Never play with matches or cigarettes in wooded areas !

YOU NEED A FIRE PERMIT AS FOLLOWS.

You must get a fire permit for lighting any fire during the fire season that is not for cooking or for obtaining warmth. You must also have a fire permit for lighting fireworks during the fire season within 1000 feet of a wooded area. Permits must be kept at the site of the operation and shown to an officer upon request. Use fireworks the safe way. Have a pail of water or sand handy to put out any still-hot remnants. Set the fireworks off only in a safe area. A safe area is one cleared free of grass and twigs, and away from buildings and overhanging branches.



FOLLOW THESE CAMPFIRE REGULATIONS.

Never build a campfire in wind or very dry weather. Build it on rock or gravel and away from overhanging branches, brush, stumps, roots, and logs. Clear a 3-foot space around it, right down to bare mineral soil. Avoid using stones around your campfire. Keep your campfire small and never leave it unattended. Thoroughly drown it with water as soon as possible after cooking. Sift the ashes with your fingers. Then stir them with a stick. This will make sure there are no hidden embers. To make completely sure it's out, drown your campfire a second time. Only portable stoves and charcoal installations are permitted in Restricted Fire Zones.

FIRE CAUSES. RESPONSIBLE GROUPS

	youth groups
	children
	camper
	hiker

REPORT ANY OUT-OF-CONTROL FIRE

IMMEDIATELY. Don't delay in doing so. The fire can grow much bigger in a very short time. Give any information to an officer when he requests it pertaining to fire prevention, such as routes to be followed, location of camps, etc.

THESE ARE THE RULES FOR SAFE SMOKING.

Always use the car ashtray when driving in, or near, wooded areas. It's against the law in these areas to throw lighted cigars, cigarettes, matches, or hot ashes from car windows. In fact, dropping lighted smoking materials in, or near, the forests at any time is strictly against the law and punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. A smoker must sit down to smoke during the fire season, April 1 through October 31. Smoking while walking or working in a wooded area then is against the law. Use a lighter if possible. If matches are used, they should be held until cold. A hot match can act as a torch to dry leaves and twigs. Never play with matches in, or near, a wooded area! All smokes must be crushed dead out. A still-burning cigarette can smoulder and flare up long after the smoker has left the area.



NO fireworks